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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts and illustrations will please send them to the editorial department, they will be in all cases sent to the printer.

THE DRUM OF LEXINGTON.

Reductions for Patriots' Day.

But yesterday I saw the historic drum

Which William Dimon beat.

Along that fateful far off April morn,

Upon each winding street.

Along the memorable green of Lexington.

Bidding the patriots come.

And face the banded hosts of tyranny.

At the reveille was a nation born.

Pledged to the sacred rights of Liberty.

Now 'neath the rays of the same vernal sun

Peace broods about the Green.

But it remembers yet the patriot's tread.

Girded with stately elms memorial.

The huddle of the deadly musket ball.

And how its sod was wet.

With sacrificial blood—the whole sad.

Pathless scene!

Would that the drum of Lexington

Again, its summoning call.

Might sound the rocky coasts of Maine.

Where Agincourt's inland, fronts the seas.

To where the long trades sweep and swell

Round the Floridian quays!

Aye, sound from Puget, on which Shastah

Is crowned.

Majestically looks down.

Even to the borders of that stricken land

Beyond the brown coils of the Rio

Pathless scene!

Have we grown sleek with sloth?

Sloughed the old virile spirit, taken on

Barren for a garnet? We are loath

To route us, and to dawn?

The rapid heroic valor once again

That girdled us when men indeed were men?

Caution and doubt and fear seem subtly

Crept

Upon us, and in

We stumble, falter, and we need

Not the smooth road, but the swift

Searching deed.

If bleed we must, then rather let us

Be glorious, rich in all the things

Save those which honor bring!

Now every slope of our dear land is fair

With the azure of the April air.

The impatient loam is ready for the

Seed.

But we? Take heed, take heed.

My brother! And O you, brave youth

Of dauntlessness and faith.

Come, William Dimon, come!

Come, sound the old reveille on your

Drum.

The drum of Lexington.

And make us all, in steadfast purpose,

One!

CLINTON SOULARD.

On the Western Front.

After fifty days of fighting about

Verdun the issue is still in doubt.

General Pétain, the French com-

mander, says in a general order to

his troops congratulating them upon

their splendid resistance to the en-

emy's assaults: "The Germans no

doubt will attack again. Let each

work and watch to obtain the same

result as before. On les aura" (We

shall get them). But by acting upon

the defensive the French can never

get "them." Unless the Allies un-

dertake a great offensive on the se-

ctor there will be no hope of

even expelling the enemy from his

lines that extend from the sea to

Switzerland.

The bulletins issued by the French

War Office since the first gun was

fired in the battle of Verdun could

be condensed into one sentence of re-

lief: "It might be worse." The Ger-

mans have occupied a great deal more

territory than the French took in the

Champagne offensive in the latter

part of 1915, and the German total

of prisoners is from 10,000 to 15,000

greater than that of the French.

Still, the Germans have neither taken

Verdun nor opened a way to Paris

on the other side of the Meuse. It

has been bad enough for the French,

but it might have been worse. In spite

of the great slaughter on both sides

and the capture of nearly 40,000 pris-

oners by the Germans, Verdun throws

no light upon the issue of the war.

William H. is quoted as having said

at a review of a division the other

day: "The present war ought to end

at Verdun." But nothing can be

made out of this declaration except

encouragement to the German troops

engaged in the battle. Obviously the

Emperor was thinking of a grand

victory that would demoralize the

Allies, and not of a last offensive

against them.

If there is to be a smashing attack

anywhere that will end trench war

and bring the combatants to-

gether for a strategic battle in the

open, apparently it must be some-

where else on the far flung line than

at Verdun. If the French have had

the worst of the fighting in that

sector they have demonstrated their

ability to thwart the German plan

to isolate Verdun and break through

on a wide front preparatory to an

advance on Paris. For a considera-

ble time the intentions of the Ger-

mans were only to be conjectured, but

the fighting about Verdun developed

into such a colossal scale that there could

be no doubt it was a major operation,

a mighty cast for victory. Two such

offensives synchronously would be

impossible.

In the meantime there has been no

hull, but almost constant fighting on

the front held by the British, now

estimated to be one-fourth of the

whole line. Here the Germans in

spite of their great efforts at Verdun

seem to be holding their own. Day

by day the British losses have signif-

icantly something more than "nibbling."

On April 14 twenty-four officers were

killed and 107 wounded, but only a

few words that disclosed nothing were

devoted to the day's work. The cen-

sorship lets no word through that

sheds the faintest light on what is

going on behind the curtain. Spring

is well advanced in that part of

France and the ground is hardening

for the opportunity of the Allies.

They must soon strike with all their

resources or be reconciled to a dead-

lock on the western front as the

most favorable issue of the war for

themselves. That they will attempt

the greatest of their offensives, before

which Loos, Neuve Chapelle and

Champagne will pale in importance,

may be assumed. On what part of

the line it will be launched General

Joffre has probably decided and the

German Staff may suspect.

As the French have hitherto done

the lion's share of the fighting for

the Allies it is the turn of Kitchener's

armies. Of late the British troops

have been constantly engaged in

minor but still costly operations. It

may be the case that General Haig

is feeling for a weak spot. Any day

the die may be cast, when we shall

hear of a great thrust at the Ger-

man line on a Verdun scale.

What Shall Be Done for the Rail-

roads?

Our correspondent "Civitas," whose

remarkable letters to THE SUN on the

Federal Incorporation of railroads

have attracted much attention, now

crystallizes his ideas on the subject

into the form of a proposed act of

Congress.

"Civitas" draft of a law appears

on this page. We are sure that its

length will deter nobody interested

from examining it thoroughly; for if

the general plan of reform is revolu-

tionary it is distinct, coherent, care-

fully studied in its details with refer-

ence to Constitutional limitations, and,

last but not least, consistent with the

actual legislation that now defines the

Government's regulation of the bank-

ing business through the Federal re-

serve system.

It will be observed that this scheme

contemplates a great deal more than

what has previously been suggested

by the term "Federal Incorporation";

that is to say, the mere transfer of

the business of incorporating and the

attendant duties and responsibilities

from the State capitals to Washing-

ton. Our description of it as revolu-

tionary is fully justified by such fea-

tures as the proposed Government

guarantee of a certain percentage of

dividend on the railroad stocks; the

limitation of dividends and the en-

forced application of excess earnings

to extension and improvement; the

appointment of Government directors;

the destruction of proportionate pri-

vate ownership control by the estab-

lishment of a new scale of value for

shares voted.

Would the railroads themselves,

meaning both majority management

and investors, minority as well as

majority, welcome so radical a

change? That remains to be seen.

Certain it is that in the present chaos

of regulation, with the hapless and

helpless railroads held as between the

two manganese steel jaws of a Gov-

ernment vise, one forcing down the

possible income, the other forcing up

the inevitable expenditures of opera-

tion, it is easily conceivable that rail-

road men and railroad owners are in

a mood to welcome with eagerness

and study with heartfelt interest any

intelligent plan of relief short of ab-

solute Government ownership.

The Rose, the Thrush and the Con-

stitution.

In New Jersey they are saying that

no Democrat is so bold as to enter

the primary struggle against the Hon.

JAMES E. MARTINE for a seat in the

United States Senate. The reason

for this phenomenal timidity is easily

found: Not only no Democrat, no hu-

man being in New Jersey but knows

that the Demosthenes of Plainfield

could with the artillery of his oratory

so encircle a political opponent

with liquid fire of eloquence that any

constituency would in very play give

Knock Out Jim the decision, the belt

and the toga with one voice.

Listen to him in the Senate only

so recently as Friday last week,

when with one volley he withered

the ranks of Senators who dared yet to

contend, K. O. Jim to the contrary

notwithstanding, that Congress should

not pass laws offensive to the Con-

stitution!

"I say I am sorry for them, for I

wonder, Mr. President, whether the sun-

rise and the glorious sunset, with its

wondrous colors and its flashes of light,

is not robbed of half its delights and

beauty to them as the softened rays of